

## North York fatalities up

**January 13 1965**

More people were killed and injured on North York streets last year, though the number of accidents dropped slightly from 1963.

Twenty-three were killed and 1,740 injured, compared with 17 killed and 1,688 injured in the previous year.

The township had 4,387 accidents, a decrease of 71.

## Change school name

Sheppard Ave. junior high school has ceased to exist, even though it's still under construction.

North York Board of Education has decided to rename the new school, due to open in September; **Oakdale Junior High** to avoid confusion with an adjacent public school.

## NEW GENERATION

It was a case of an older generation handing over to the new as Mr. Allen recalled that Mr. Lascelles had joined the civic service in Toronto and become a Royal Flying Corps ace during World War I before he himself was born.

Mayor Givens, in his salute to Mr. Bell, also said farewell to a man who joined the civic service before the mayor was born.

Mr. Bell has 45 years service, and Mr. Lascelles

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# Weston Times

WESTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1968



**LES CANADIENS SIT** side by side with their English-speaking student counterparts at an official reception held in their honor last Friday morning at Oakdale Junior high school, North York. The 32 Quebec City students were on an ex-

change visit as guests of the Oakdale high schoolers whom they had hosted back in mid-February. Standing before the group are Dr. G. Maher, Ph.D., inspector for North York schools (left) and school principal G. W. Clipperton.

## A week-end at Oakdale jr. high

### 32 Quebec students return a visit

The 32 Oakdale junior high schoolers who said au revoir to their student hosts in Quebec City a couple of months ago knew it was only a matter of time till they got together again with their "bi-bi" counterparts.

The arrival of 32 French-speaking students from Quebec City for a reception on Friday morning at the Grandravine Drive school off Jane north of Shep-

pard was the culmination of many months of planning and hard work.

It was also the beginning of a long, fun-filled weekend for everyone.

Officials in attendance at the 9 a.m. reception were Dr. G. Maher, Ph.D., inspector for North York schools; John Fraumeni, co-ordinator of French for North York; and G. W. Clipperton, principal of Oakdale Junior High.

"Much of the credit for organizing the exchange visit goes to Ed. Routhier, chairman of our school's French department," Mr. Clipperton explained.

"Our youngsters met them at the station as they came off the Rapido at 9:30 Thursday night and took them to their individual billets," he said.

Following the reception, the Quebec students joined in regular classes at the school. In the afternoon they went on a sight-seeing tour of the Toronto City Hall, Toronto-Dominion building and other points of interest.

In the evening they were guests at Oakdale's first annual Drama Night when the plays, The Bishop's Candle Sticks and The Happy Journey, were presented, in English.

Saturday afternoon they took a trip through the Niagara Peninsula to see the Falls, the blossoms and "everything else that's beautiful" in the area.

Saturday evening was "free" allowing the two groups of students to get re-acquainted.

Sunday morning was leave-taking.

"During their stay with us, they

## Pax Class dedicates window, youth leader earns a gavel

The Pax Bible Class, last Sunday evening dedicated its stained glass window with Clifford Cruickshank and Bill Stonehouse taking part in the ceremony. The window has the Good Samaritan theme due to the close association of the Pax Class with The Scott Mission.

Rev. Craig Cribbar, former president of the class and now minister in Orillia conducted the church service, assisted by past Pax members, Don Niepage, Mary Seagrave, Bruce McGregor, Donald Richardson, Sheila Mac-

Heathfield and conducted by Gary Seagrave.

An hour of fellowship followed the church service and past and present Pax members gathered in the Creelman Hall for a short program and refreshments.

Those taking part were Dave Black, Doug Heathfield, The Westons, The Desmond Sisters, Wayne Dubson, Michael Young and Jim Cox.

Bill Bain, David Roy, Sheila Heyworth and Dale Ferguson took part in Front Page Challenge.

Donning the evening President

# 2 boys killed, girl badly hurt as car smashes through fence

Two North York boys were killed and a girl was hurt yesterday when a car pushed them through a chain-link fence while they were on their way home from school.

Police said Claudio Palermo, 12, of Glitspur Dr. and Patrick Marzilli, 13, of Thurrock Rd., were going home from Oakdale Junior High School when a car driven by Mrs. Bella Mantini, 22, of Finch Ave. W., jumped the curb and crossed the sidewalk beside Grand Ravine Dr., carrying the boys on the hood through the heavy fence.

Both boys were dead on arrival at Humber Memorial Hospital from extensive internal and other injuries.

Gundrin Wilck, 14, of Turks Rd., a student at the same school, received severe head injuries and shock and is in only fair condition, but improving.

Mrs. Mantini was charged

with criminal negligence causing death and impaired driving.

The Palermo boy, a Grade 7 student, was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Santino Palermo. They

also have one daughter. Palermo, who came to Canada from Italy in 1954, is a construction worker.

The Marzilli boy is the oldest of two children of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Marzilli.

**Oct 15 1969**

## Pact to end strike at Stelco reported

Agreement has been reached in talks to end the strike by 14,500 Steel Co. of Canada workers, a source close to negotiations told The Star today.

Official announcement of a memorandum of agreement is expected later today.

There was no comment from either Stelco or the United Steelworkers of America on the pact to end

the strike by the nation's largest steelmaker, now in its 76th day.

Talks conducted at the Royal York Hotel by W. H. Dickie, director of conciliation services for the Ontario Department of Labor, were snagged over the weekend on the contract for the fabricating workers in Ontario and Quebec.

Earlier, it was understood agreement was reached on



# 2 wife-killers in sane sent to mental hospitals

June 27 1970



IN THE  
COURTS

Two wife-killers were found not guilty of murder yesterday by reason of insanity and sent to mental hospitals for indefinite terms.

Spiridon Gavopoulos, 36, received a head injury in his native Greece in 1950, later tried to commit suicide and was admitted to a mental hospital there in 1964. After his release he came to Canada in 1967.

Late last summer his wife, Kleopatra, 29, had a baby boy and about then Gavopoulos started acting strangely. He ~~argued~~ his mother-in-law and brother-in-law of trying to break up his marriage. His wife moved away from him and took a room on Logan Ave.

One afternoon in October, Gavopoulos pushed his way into the house, pulled a straight razor from under his coat and slashed Kleopatra to death.

Soon after the killing, Gavopoulos tried to kill himself. A psychiatrist testified he was in a state of psychotic depression at the time of the killing and probably for three months before.

On Feb. 7 Garland Blagdon, 42, of Hannaford St.,

threw a firecracker, but pleaded not guilty to the disturbance charge and denied he was a demonstrator. He said he went to take movies of a musical group performing in Nathan Phillips Square that day.

## Driver killed 2 —gets probation

Bella Mantini, 22, of Finch Ave. W., was driving past Oakdale Junior High School on Grandravine Dr., North York, last October when her car jumped the sidewalk and hit three students.

One escaped with cuts. The other two—Patrick Marzilli, 13, and Claudio Palermo, 12—were killed.

Mrs. Mantini, charged with impaired driving and criminal negligence, was convicted by a jury of dan-

gerous driving and put on probation for a year. She was also banned from driving for three years.

## Dud cheque artist jailed 6 months

Keith Campbell, 29, of Poplar Plains Rd., found he could pass phony cheques easily if he posed as a mining analyst then as a lawyer.

Then he promoted himself to neurosurgeon and found the pickings even better. However he was caught, when he went to a hospital to try to get a doctor's identification card.

Yesterday, Campbell admitted writing two bad cheques. Judge P. J. Bolsby convicted him of writing five more. Total loot: \$280.

Campbell went to jail for six months.

## Juvenile murder trial



## TTC wants April 21, 1971 speed-up on subway building

Subway construction should be speeded up to keep pace with Metro's growth, the Toronto Transit Commission says in a brief to Metro Council's transportation committee.

The brief says 21 miles of subway have been built since September, 1959, an average of about a mile a year. The commission is willing to expand the subway system "upon provision of adequate financing," it states.

The seven-page brief was approved by commissioners yesterday.

TTC chairman Ralph Day said in an interview the commission was shackled by the 20-month delay on the \$237 million Spadina Expressway and rapid transit line, which is still before the provincial cabinet for a decision.

"It takes at least a year of detailed structural engineering after everything is approved before we can award any contracts," Day said.

"Until the cabinet approves, we can't even get started on the detailed plans. We're just shackled."

## TTC to spend \$65,000 for signals

The Toronto Transit Commission voted to spend \$65,000 on new signalling equipment yesterday despite chairman Ralph Day's claim that it wasn't needed.

J. H. Kearns, general manager of operations, recommended the expenditure because signals at the Davisville yard failed to prevent a derailment last September.

A motorman, who failed to follow instructions, derailed the train while reversing.

Day said the present signal system had worked well for 16 years.

"A man does something with a train that he wasn't supposed to do and now we have something described as a dangerous situation," he said.

## OAKDALE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



BACKING TEACHERS' DEMANDS for higher pay, hundreds of students pour out of North York's Oakdale Junior High School yesterday. Teachers began a work-to-rule protest Monday to add pressure

to their drive for a new contract. About 200-300 of the 1,000 students at Oakdale joined the walkout, according to the principal, and some students at three other North York high schools also left classes.

## 400 students leave North York schools back teacher protest

Representatives of North York's 24,000 high school students met today to discuss a walkout by at least 400 students at four schools yesterday.

"I'm attempting to cool the situation," said Bill Warner, president of the North York Inter-Collegiate Student Council.

He summoned the student presidents of the borough's 20 senior secondary schools to meet with representatives of the school board and of the 2,000 teachers whose work-to-rule protest sparked the walkouts.

All the students were reported back in class as the conference opened today in the school board's head office on Oakburn Cres.

Harry Threshington, president of district 13 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, assured the students that teachers don't want them to fight their battles.

"I'm not here to solicit your support for our cause," he said. "Teachers do not wish to disrupt the normal day. I hope no teacher is encouraging disruption of classes."

The school board has offered teachers with top experience and qualifications a maximum of \$15,600 this year and \$15,900 next year. Present salaries range from \$7,200 to \$15,300.

Since Monday the teachers have cut out all extra-curricular activities such as sports and music practices to demand more money and protest provincial curbs on education spending.

### 200 AT OAKDALE

Oakdale Junior High School principal David Elliott said 200 to 300 students skipped afternoon classes yesterday. About 150 others walked out at C. W. Jefferys Secondary School, about 30 at Westview Secondary School and an undetermined number at Lewis S. Beatty Secondary School.

Rose Mallen, 14, who walked out at Oakdale, said, "We walked out because we're bored. It's not fair to us that our after-school activities should be cancelled because the teachers are working to rule. We blame the school board."

Gerald Killham, vice-principal at C. W. Jefferys, said only two sports practices

## Teachers start taking strike vote to guard 'quality of education'

Toronto's high school teachers began balloting on a strike vote today while their provincial leader warned an Ontario Legislature committee that "any legitimate method" will be used to protect the quality of education.

The vote, being taken in Toronto today and the rest of the province tomorrow, will tell the executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation how far its members will go to protest the feared erosion of educational standards because of provincial curbs on school board spending.

A work-to-rule campaign or a province-wide walkout by teachers May 3 are suggested tactics. A decision will be made Saturday, when the federation's executive council holds an emergency meeting.

Today, federation president G. P. Wilkinson presented a brief to the Legislature's human resources committee claiming that the government's proposed austerity campaign in the schools will lower the quality of education for about 40 per cent of the province's 200,000 secondary school students and a larger proportion of elementary students.

The Department of Education has ordered school boards to limit spending to \$1,060 for each high school student and \$345 for elementary students.

In its 17-page brief, the federation challenges the government to prove these spending ceilings will not impair the quality of education.

The brief says the federation recognizes "the need to control costs," but suggests the government make the spending ceilings more flexible by giving local boards the power to exceed them. Because the boards are elected, the taxpayers would still have ultimate control, the brief says.

Unless this flexibility is available, the ceilings will force teachers to handle more pupils in some schools, some cutbacks in classes for immigrants and abandonment of music and home economics courses in some areas, Wilkinson claimed.

He also urged that the government provide extra grants for education of handicapped or slow learners and give teachers more voice in planning programs, objectives and spending priorities.

"Society at large must ensure that education is not under-financed in the year ahead," the federation warns, while "on the other hand, the schools must work harder at maximizing the educational returns on the dollar expended."

—Star photo by Mario Gro





Ninety students from Oakdale Junior High School took part in a three-day music workshop at Cedar Glen Conservation Area. In addition to enjoying the numerous outdoor facilities, the students became involved in a concentrated, "in-depth" musical experience. The three music areas of string, wind and vocal were correlated in the forms of symphonic orchestra and mass choir. Use was made of Cedar Glen's numerous rooms to divide the students into small ensembles and provide experience in playing duets, trios, quartets and quintets.

Highlight of the excursion occurred on the last evening when the various ensembles took part in presenting a concert of the music they had learned that day.

Six students from Westview Centennial Secondary School accompanied W. Pinkus, J. Harris, and J. Green as staff assistants and took charge of several ensembles.

**Oakdale MUSIC WORKSHOP write-up in the North York Board of Education newsletter. 1971.**



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# Seniors help others

June 7, 1975

## and get ego boost

**E**RIC TREDWELL used to be a school principal in Toronto. An active 69, he still spends a half day a week teaching.

As a senior VIP (Volunteers in Public Service), Tredwell visits **Oakdale Junior High School** in Downsview and works on a one-to-one basis with Grade 7 and 8 students, helping youngsters who need some individual attention.

Classes nowadays contain 30 students, and the young people aren't often able to enjoy this special attention from a teacher, said Tredwell.

"Some students are new to the country and it takes time for them to feel at ease with a new language, and to be able to write assignments," he said.

Tredwell said his retirement teaching experience is a "great ego booster." He enjoys the contact with teachers and says the students give him the feeling he can really help them.

He retired seven years ago and spends much of his time gardening, fishing and cooking. "I enjoy all of these pastimes but I wanted to get involved with the community again."

Senior VIPs are supported by the New Horizons organization and the Volunteer Centre of Metropolitan Toronto.

In 1974, 336 senior men and women volunteers were referred to various city agencies.

In addition to helping in classrooms—Tredwell is part of a team which includes three women VIPs—volunteers escort wheelchair patients to hospital; visit veterans and take part in the meals-on-wheels program.

Ernest Nicol, chairman of the organization, said there is a need for drivers who can work with local branches of the Children's Aid Society.

A volunteer will find the hours



RETIRED teacher Eric Tredwell, 69, tutors students at Oakdale Junior High, Willowdale.

are flexible. They take a four-week training program before they are assigned to do a job.

Nina Hermon, co-ordinator of the VIPs, talked about back-up services for volunteers. Those who work in nursing homes get together at group meetings with staff. They talk about their experiences, share difficulties, and come up with ways of overcoming them.

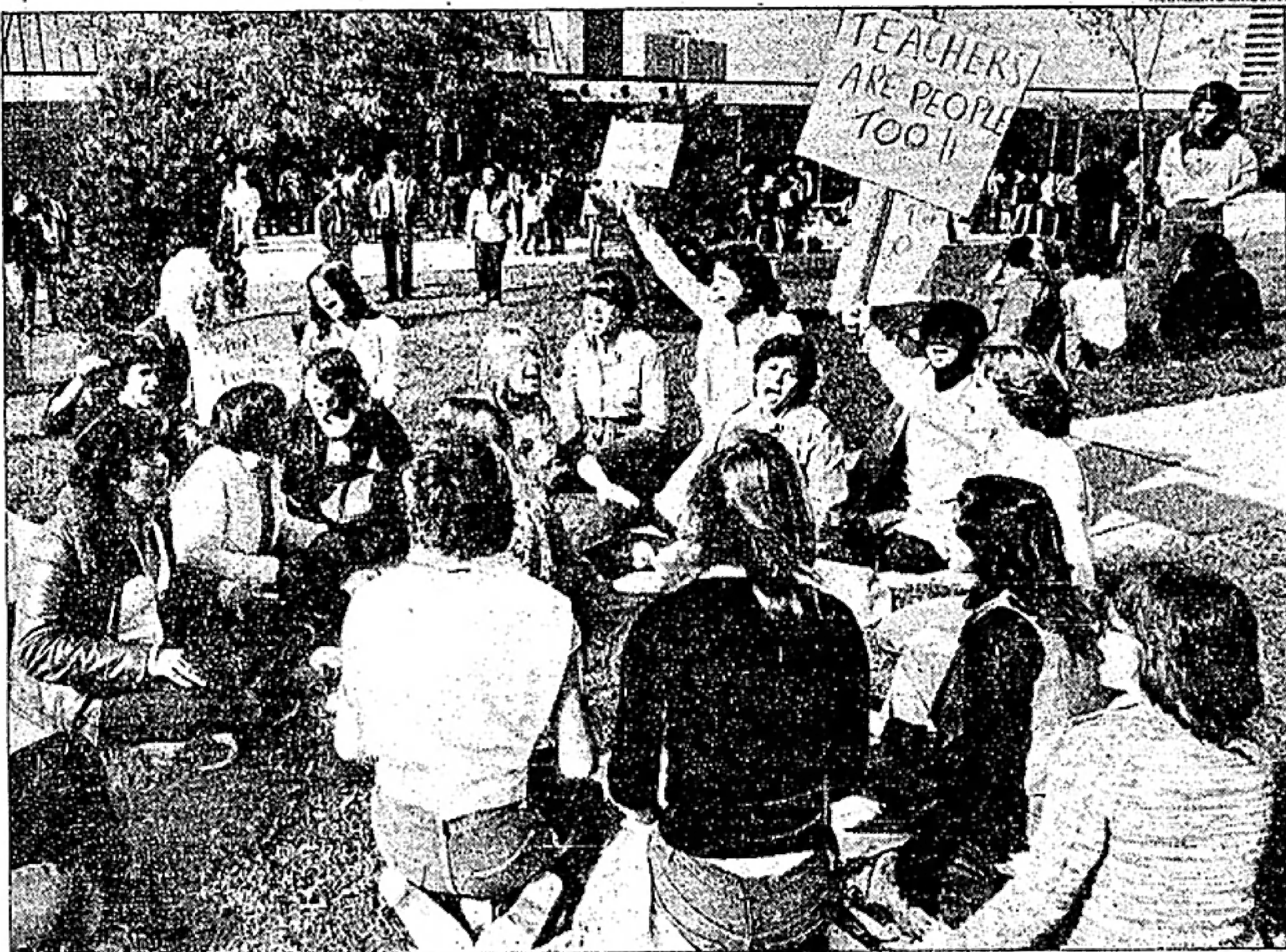
At the last count, by Statistics Canada in 1971, about 11 per cent of the city's population was over 65.

Most of Metro's elder citizens still live in their own homes and there will be an increasing need of volunteers needed to help them remain independently at home.

This group also represents a good source of potential volunteers. Anyone interested in joining this program should contact 923-4477.



FRED ROSE/TORONTO STAR



Students at C. W. Jefferys Secondary School in North York voice their displeasure after 4 teachers are laid off

**Oct 12, 1978**

# Students walk out over cuts in staff

By Harold Hilliard Toronto Star

Students at a North York school walked out of class today to protest a mid-term cut in staff of four teachers.

Walkout leaders Allison Voss and Kathy Sharpe said about 250 students of a total enrolment of 1,676 at C. W. Jefferys Secondary School on Sentinel Rd. were involved.

But principal M. A. Fleck said there were only about 40 demonstrators. "The others outside are on spare periods."

Miss Voss said the walkout was one of a number being organized in the borough this week before a march Friday on Queen's Park. Students from Westview Centennial Secondary School and Jane

and Oakdale Junior High Schools will take part, she said.

Another student leader, Marc Begin, said "the students are upset because of reorganization of student schedules and the loss of good teachers announced to the school by Fleck yesterday."

A letter to parents and students yesterday from Fleck said four full-time teachers were leaving the school because they had been transferred to full-time supply duty due to an unexpected drop in enrolment.

Projected enrolment was 1,830 students. Present enrolment is 150 below that.

Begin said the schedule changes resulting from the teaching staff cut had required "one student I know to change three teachers and six classes. This whole business is pretty disrupting for the students." He said "there is talk of combining Grades 11 and 12 in the school next year."

Miss Sharpe said she was one of the students who Tuesday spoke to the principal, protesting against schedule changes. "He called the school board and said nothing can be done about it," she said.

She said striking students are taking petitions around to parents and other homes in the school area seeking support for their protest.

Fleck told The Star it "was possible" there are as many as 45 students in one class following the changes which had to be made when the four teachers left Monday. "However, we will be taking another look at such things as class sizes and any necessary changes will be made," he said.

He said one reason for a class sometimes being excessively large is that some students prefer crowding to being moved.

One striking student, Lauri Ciotoli, a Grade 11 pupil, said timetable changes involved 400 to 600 students. In his letter to parents and students Fleck said changes involved "a little over 100 students and 20 staff members."

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# Jane-Finch woman polishing area's image



**Community booster:** Irene Pengelly says tension still exists but at least both sides are now listening to each other. But problems are also more complex.

By Hamlin Grange Toronto Star

**NORTH YORK** — There are about 15,000 young people living in the Jane-Finch Corridor and many of them call Irene Pengelly "Mom."

Although she has five sons of her own, her activities as a community worker in the area have allowed her to develop a special relationship with the young people there.

It's not surprising to find her surrounded by youthful faces on one of her many "walks" through the Jane-Finch Mall.

"Oh yeah, I do a lot of walking. In fact, I'm on the street so much that the police in the area have threatened to buy me a uniform."

## Strong supporter

Pengelly, a special education teacher aide at Oakdale Junior High School, is one of Jane-Finch's strongest supporters. She laughs easily, wears tennis shoes to school, calls everybody, it seems, "kid" (many of these "kids" are 20 or older) and sometimes finds she has to be at several meetings at the same time.

A former chairman of the 31 Division community relations committee, she is also on the board of several organizations, including the York Employment Services, Black Creek Adventure Group, Jane-Finch Legal Services, Jane-Finch Red Cross and many others.

With a large family — her sons are between 19 and 28 — and her admitted "waspy" upbringing,

## PROFILE 1983

Pengelly is perhaps the most unlikely person one would expect to be so involved in a community known for its raw edges. Or is she?

Pengelly, who's "29 and holding," grew up in the Bathurst St. and Sheppard Ave. area and moved to rural Georgetown and Nobleton after she married.

Ten years later she returned to Metro and lived in an Ontario housing development not too far from the school on Grandravine Dr.

"It was culture shock for us. We had moved from a farmhouse with 100 acres to play in, to a townhouse development where the only thing you own are the four walls."

Jane-Finch was a new area then, with few services for the immigrant and highly transient community, she says.

The area was racially mixed but was predominantly white (Italian). It didn't have the reputation of being beset with social problems but she found it tense.

"The problems were not so much along racial lines but there were difficulties with youth and adults. They didn't understand each other."

Today, she says the tension still exists but at least both sides are listening to each other. The problems have also become more complex.

Part of this listening process is the weekly sessions at Oakdale

where as many as 200 youngsters come just to hang out.

The evening is relatively unstructured and school staff only supervise, Pengelly says. They play games in the gym, watch movies, do their homework or socialize with each other.

"There is no place for kids these days and with the high density here it's even a greater problem. They want to be together."

She is also involved with a similar program run by the Black Creek Adventure Group at Driftwood Community Centre.

Over the years, she says, Jane-Finch has developed into "a community of people. More people are getting involved and the various groups can now expand their horizons."

## Tough challenge

As chairman of the community relations committee at 31 Division, Pengelly faced her toughest challenge. Being a mother of two Metro policemen, stationed in other divisions, she was accused of having a conflict of interest.

"There is always the new officer who thinks just because I'm part of a police family that I'm going to take his side, but I don't. On the other hand, I don't believe in undercutting the positive gains the department has made, and there have been many."

Accepting the job required a lot of soul searching, she says. But it was just an extension of her love for her community.



# Schools get tougher on students

By Lynne Ainsworth  
Toronto Star

When the Gallup poll asked Canadians about education last month, school discipline was second only to teenage drug use in a list of public concerns.

As school enrolment declines and education costs rise, it's not surprising the public has turned a critical eye to the schools. School discipline, or the lack of it, has become a concern of not just parents, but taxpayers, says John Metcalf, an education officer with the Ministry of Education's curriculum branch.

Public attitudes about education have come full circle from the heady days of change in the 1960s, when freedom was the catchword, to the conservative values preached today.

In response to the move to the right, Queen's Park has ordered each junior high and secondary school in Ontario to develop a code of discipline as part of a new back-to-basics high school program.

A school cannot enforce any rule contravening legal rights of students. But one message is clear: Students must accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

## Codes spelled out

Varying in length from one to 10 pages, most codes simply state previously unwritten rules about punctuality, truancy, assignments and the use of drugs and alcohol. But other codes have to be spelled out:

□ At Elia Junior High School in Don Mills, carrying weapons to school, or storing them in a locker, is prohibited;

□ Profanity and obscene language are taboo at Bayview Junior High School in Willowdale;

□ Racist comments or jokes could get an Oakdale Junior High School student tossed out of class;

□ At Lawrence Heights Middle School in North York students must keep to the right when walking from class to class and can only make trips to their

1984 Nov 27 Star



ment in Canada has increased 60 per cent since 1970, reaching its highest level this year.

While the codes play only a small role in this latest overhaul of the educational system, it's a controversial one.

"For a long time now the polls have been telling educators the Number 1 concern of parents is discipline in the schools. It would be foolish of us to ignore this concern," says Ken Hills, principal at Westview Centennial Secondary School in North York.

Committees of administrators, teachers, parents and students must now draw up a set of school rules outlining student rights and responsibilities.

Hills, part of a team of educators who co-authored a draft report on discipline for the ministry, says the number of kids who are discipline problems make up only a small per cent of the school population.

"Inside the school some kids are actually exhibiting their best behavior," Hills says. "It's only at night or on weekends they get out of hand when they're not as well supervised."

Tim Costigan, a principal at Westwood Secondary School in Mississauga, who also had a hand in composing the discipline document, says there are no major discipline problems in schools, only a communications problem.

"People see teens misbehaving out of school hours and they automatically assume this is what they're like in class," Costigan says.

Of the 1,400 students who attend Westwood, Costigan says only a dozen can be considered discipline problems.

"When I went to school I'm sure my parents thought there wasn't enough discipline," says Steve Elliott, principal at General Vanier Secondary School in Oshawa and one of 20 people from across the province who had some input into the ministry's discipline document.

## Catholic schools

Even though parents are no



March 10, 1987

# Multicultural Wiz to be staged

By Phil Johnson

An ambitious community theatre company is attempting to enhance the image of the Jane-Finch corridor with a multi-cultural version of the Broadway and movie hit, *The Wiz*.

The Jane-Finch Players, a group of 50 area residents and York University students, began working on the musical last summer. Their efforts will culminate with a three-day presentation of *The Wiz* at Oakdale Junior High School, March 12, 13 and 14.

Bob Lamont, the co-director and manager, who is in third-year theatre at York, says more than 100 teenagers are taking part in the production. "It's our first effort and it's been very challenging working with the youngsters," Lamont says.

Lamont says the sets of *The Wiz* depict the Jane-Finch community and the show will attempt to build up the image of the neighborhood.

"We want people to know there are several good aspects of the community," he says. "It's not utopia, but it is a tight-knit area and people here are working to pull it together."

In the Jane-Finch Players' interpretation of *The Wiz*, young Dorothy is a new Canadian who feels alienated in the North York public housing neighborhood. And she soon gets swept away hearing comments about it.

Dorothy is then taken to a fantasy version of Jane-Finch and through her adventure there, gains a fuller understanding about what home, family and friends mean to her, Lamont says. With a little courage and help, she finds she can make things work in the real community.

## Fuller understanding

The unique musical includes two Dorothys, one an Indian played by Faudia Baksh, and a Korean played by Tammy Kim, both from Jane Junior High School.

There are also two cowardly lions, a black one played by Michael Anderson, and a white one played by Cynthia Farris. The Scarecrow is played by Michael Cadden and the Tin Man by Chris Elecock, all from Oakdale Junior High School. Glinda, the good Witch of the South, and Aunt Em, are played by Louise St. Cyr, a

first-year dance student at York.

The villain of the play, Evellene, the Wicked Witch of the West, is played by Maxine Graves, an Oakdale student who will be attending the Claude Watson School for the Arts.

Diane Roberts, third-year theatre at York, is co-director, Laury Otis, head of community outreach for Jane-Finch, is general manager, and Roderick Johnson, a professional choreographer, has been with Theatre Ballet Canada and Le Ballet Jazz of Montreal.

The music director is Lazarus Varla, a fourth-year music student at York, and the 25-piece band consists of York University and Emery Collegiate students.

The Jane-Finch Players are funded by the Black Creek Lions Club, the York-Finch Medical Staff Association and several York colleges.

The group is also being aided by the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizens Organization, which is handling administrative duties and is studying the possibility of a youth theatre, called New Visions. It would consist of unemployed youth from the area, Lamont says.